

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The specification is amended by the present response to correct for minor informalities. The changes made to the specification are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Claims 1-24 and 29-40 are pending in this application. Claims 25-28 are canceled by the present response without prejudice, and Claims 29-40 are added by the present response.

Claims 1, 2, and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,173,142 to Kawakami. Claims 3, 4, 9, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kawakami in view of U.S. patent 5,689,791 to Swift. Claims 5-8, 10-17, 27, and 28 were objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowable subject matter in Claims 5-8, 10-17, 27, and 28.

With respect to that indication of allowable subject matter applicants submit herein new Claims 29-40 that recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. More particularly, new independent Claim 29 corresponds to previously pending Claim 5 rewritten in independent form. New independent Claims 37-39 have also been written to include the subject matter noted as allowable in the outstanding Office Action, namely those new claims recite “said brush roller has a weight of 50 g or above, but 200 g or below”. Thus, each of the new claims is believed to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

Addressing now the outstanding rejections based on Kawakami and Kawakami in view of Swift, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Each of independent Claims 1, 23, and 24 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, each of those claims now recites "said brush roller has no driving motor and thereby rotates only by following a movement of said surface".

According to the above-noted feature, and with reference to Figures 1 and 2 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, the above-noted claims are directed to a structure in which a brush roller 12 contacts a surface of a member 2 to be cleaned. Further, the brush roller 12 is not driven by a drive source but is driven by the charge roller 2.<sup>1</sup> Such a structure simplifies configuration and reduces costs by obviating the need for a drive source for the brush roller 12, and further the brush roller does not contact the surface of the member to be cleaned with excessive force, to thereby prevent excessive wear.<sup>2</sup>

The above-noted features are believed to distinguish over the applied art.

Kawakami discloses the use of a cleaning roller 11. However, Kawakami does not disclose that cleaning roller 11 is not driven by a motor and rotates only by following a movement of a surface to be cleaned. Kawakami appears to indicate that the roller 11 rotates independently of the charging brush 1, and that thereby the roller 11 cannot be driven only by following the movement of the charging brush 1.

Even more particularly, Kawakami discloses *setting* a specific relationship between the rotations of the brush cleaner 11 and charging brush 1 at column 7, line 5 *et seq.*, clearly implying that the rotation speed of the brush cleaning 11 can be controlled and does not only follow movement of the cleaning brush 1. Kawakami also discloses that the brush cleaner 11 can rotate "at a speed higher than that of the roller-charging brush 1" at column 9, lines 19-20. The only way that the brush cleaning 11 could rotate at a higher speed than that of the charging brush 1 would be if the brush cleaner 11 had a driving source. If the brush roller 11

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, the present specification at page 8, lines 9-10.

<sup>2</sup> Specification at page 8, lines 11-15.

rotated only by following the movement of the charging brush 1 the brush cleaner 11 would not rotate at a higher speed than that of the charging brush 1.

Thus, Kawakami is not believed to teach or suggest a structure in which a brush roller that contacts a surface of a member to be cleaned does not have a driving motor and rotates only by following a movement of the surface to be cleaned. Thus, each of independent Claims 1, 23, and 24, and the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to distinguish over the teachings in Kawakami.

Moreover, Swift does not provide any teachings that overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Kawakami.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

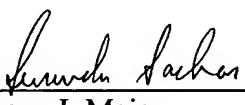
Respectfully submitted,

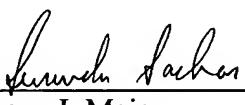
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